HO-71

Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, & Turntable

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-07-2013

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The Baltimore and Ohio Station at Ellicott City, built in 1830-31, is a long oblonged-shaped two-story structure with thick stone walls and a gabled roof that is topped by a small wooden cupola. The first floor, located at street level and is no longer used, is comprised of one large room with earth packed floor. The second . floor is divided by thick stone walls and thin wooden partitions into three rooms. This floor, which is at track level, also no longer is used. All windows in the building are boarded up and the station at first glance looks completely deserted and abandoned.

Comparision of the existing structure with a print, published in 1835, indicates that the exterior of the station is virtually unchanged. The interior has been altered over the years by the addition and removal of various wooden partitioned walls, but the three foot thick original stone interior walls are intact and indicate that much of the interior construction is still original. The building is in deteriorating condition and apparently has been left abandoned for some time.

Presently leased to the Historic District Commission of Howard County by its original owners, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, now the Chessie System, restoration plans are in progress though actual work has not yet begun. There is also an archeological excavation in process directly adjacent the south side of the station house. This digging is intended to date one of the two original turntables located at the Ellicott City Station. It is speculated that this turntable is approximately 50 feet in diameter and used as late as 1847. This work is being conducted by students of archeology at Catonsville Community College.

The Ellicott City Station was originally used as a car house. This function changed shortly after its construction. Located directly north of the station is the Old Oliver Viaduct. Though washed away by the flood in 1972, the viaduct has been reconstructed. There is also located within the boundaries an old work shop. This building dates back the mid-nineteenth century and holds an integral place in the history of the station at Ellicott City.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

As lined in red on the accompanying map entitled "The Historic District Commission of Howard County" beginning at the junction of Maryland Avenue and St. Paul Streets, proceed due east to the western shoreline of the Tiber River, this forms the southern boundary; thence north along the western shoreline to a point of intersection with the north side of the Main Street Bridge, this forms the eastern boundary; thence west along the northern side of Main Street to a point of junction with Maryland Avenue, this forms the northern

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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HO-71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

(NATIONAL HISTORIC . LANDMARKS)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

boundary; thence south along the eastern side of Maryland Avenue to the point of origin.

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	Pre-Columbian!	16th Century	[] 18th Century	20th Century
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SPECI	FIC DATE(S) (II Applicab	le und Known) 1830	(date of construc	tion)
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The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station at Ellicott City, erected in 1830-31, is the oldest railroad station in the United States. It served as the original terminus of the railroad's original 13-miles section of track. Over this line, in August, 1830, the locamotive Tom Thumb raced a horse drawn car and lout, because of mechanical failure. The Baltimore and Ohio Rai, oad was the first rialroad to be chartered as a common carrier of both freight and passengers and its supporters, moreover, looked beyond purely local needs to envisage a line all the way to the Ohio River that would channel the growing western trade through the port of Baltimore. This new form of transportation, it was hoped, would serve to counter the dominance of New York City as the nations major part and financial center after the completion of The Erie Canal. The financial success of this first portion of track gave impetus to further westward development of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as well as the construction of other American railroads that were just getting underway.

HISTORY

The railroad, like the turnpike and the canal, was first built to attach large tributary areas to the Atlantic seabord ports. The rivalry of these coastal cities resulted in a intense competition to reach the agricultural regions of the West by the rapid construction of eastwest transportation routes. The great railroad construction race that was about to begin in 1830 was precipitated by the economic overlordship bestowed upon New York City by the Erie Canal. Outdistanced rival ports had generally reacted with the construction of their own canals, but the topographical features in these other areas could not duplicate those that so greatly favored the Erie canal. Coastal cities were thus stimulated to seek some new device that would equalize the race for inland markets.

Baltimore, left by the wayside in the 1828 plans for the development of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, countered with a scheme of her own, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. City merchants incorporated the railroad company on February 28, 1827 and by April 1828, surveys for the proposed first 13 mile section had been completed. Between Baltimore and Ellicott City, the railroad was to follow the Patapsco

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River because of the easy grades.

On July 4, 1828, the same date that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company also began construction, Maryland's leading citizen, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, turned the first shovel of earth for the railroad; the race westward between the two rival forms of transportation was on. Construction of the roadbed, however, proved to be more costly and difficult than the company had anticipated, and expenses averaged about 17,00 dollars per mile. Two large viaducts had to be erected -- The Carrollton Viaduct over Gwyns Falls, which still stands, and the Patterson Viaduct over the Patapsco River, he ruins of which can be seen at Ellicott City. Accidents and frequent riots among the poorly-paid laborers further slowed the pace of construction. But by October 1829 the workers began to lay the important English rails and by the following spring the single track ran to Ellicott City.

The Baltimore and Ohio proudly announced the inauguration of regular rail service to Ellicott City on May 24, 1830. Three trips a day would be made and the round trip of 26 miles would cost 75 cents. The Pioneer, the lead car of four individually horse drawn cars forming the the initial train, led the first train to Ellicott City, thus initialing the beginning of rail service in the United States. The first one-andone-half hour trip achieved instant popularity, and during the first 30 days the company earned \$1,000 a week.

In August 1930, the locomotive, Tom Thumb raced a horse drawn car down a parallel second track. Though the engine lost the first race because of mechanical failure, by July 1831 the Tom Thumb was operating regularly on the road at a rate of 18 to 20 miles per hour for those who wished to travel by steam.

The success of the first 13 miles of track undoubtedly spurred the further western development of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Late in 1834, its tracks reached Harper's Ferry. By 1842 the railroad had reached Cumberland, eight years ahead of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and in 1852 the Baltimore and Ohio finally crossed the Appalachian Mountains and entered Wheeling on the Ohio River.

^{*}Statement of Significance taken from the Special Report "Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station, Ellicott City, Maryland" by Charles W. Snell Landmark Files, Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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7. Description

The B & O Railroad Station at Ellicott City, formerly Ellicott's

Mills, is a stone structure built of local granite which was given to the Railroad

by the Ellicotts from one of their local quarries.

The land upon which the building is located was also donated by the Ellicotts, George, Samuel, Andrew and John.

The structure was a two story building which parallels the Old Main Line of the B & O Railroad Company. Having a width of approximately 25 feet and a length of approximately 90 feet, the upper level of the station is at track level while the lower level is at street level on Maryland Avenue.

Built in 1829-30, it was designed for use as a car house, produce house and superintendent's office. The car house was at the southern end of the building which was equipped with large doors to accomodate the entrance into the building by locomotives and cars. There still exists, track notches on the floor joist in this end of the building indicating that the trains were pulled into the upper level and that the floor was open which permitted the underneath to be worked on from the lower level. In addition, this section of the car house there still exists two large, funnels in the overhead area of the upper level. One of these funnels aligns with the stack on the vertical boiler engines such as the Tom Thumb, York and Atlantic and the other funnel which was obviously installed at a later date aligns with the stack on the horizontal boiler engines such as the Lafayette.

7. Description (Continued)

This is the only station known to still be in existence which was designed to accommodate the servicing of engines in this manner. Its use as such was shortly to become impractical because of the rapid growth of the size of steam engines and it appears that early in the 1840's the doors were closed off and the building was no longer used in this manner.

Another interesting feature of the building was the fact that the center of the building which was used for the reception of produce was in fact a large open area two starts in height. Produce was brought into the building at the lower level on Maryland Avenue and was raised by use of some type of lift to the track level of the building.

The building remains basically the same as originally constructed with the exception of the opening and closing of some doors and windows.

The funnels, track notches, original opening in the ceiling area for the lift to operate in the produce room and many other unusual features unique to this building still exist. A detailed architectural description is found in the attached "Heritage"-Vol.1,No.5.

In addition to the stone structure, a smaller brick structure

was built in 1885 as a freight warehouse. This was necessitated by the rapid expansion of passenger use on the Old Main Line and is indicative of the splendid brick work of the time. It continues to exist as built in that era and is being preserved for that reason.

Located between the stone station house and the brick freight building is the remains of a turntable. The turntable is built also of native granite and is 50 in diameter. Built in the early 1840's, when the trains were no longer pulled into the station house, the turn-

table accommodating the turn engines for their return trip from Ellicott Mills to Baltimore. This site has been the project of an archeological dig and there have been uncovered a number of the original timbers, supports, etc. The original floor area apparently was of cinder fill and was later improved with cobblestones. When the turntable area was filled in, in later years, much of it was permitted to remain. As it is being uncovered, it will be used as part of the proposed museum.

This entire complex will house a museum information center in Ellicott City. The large stone station which is presently on the National Register would not be complete without the addition of the brick freight building and the turntable, all of which are being restored under the ownership of Howard County and the sponsorship of Historic Ellicott City, Inc.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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PECIFIC DATE(S) (If App	licable and Known)	830 Station 11	885 Freight Bldg .
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8. Significance

Ellicott's Mills was the terminus of the first 13 miles of commercial railroading to be constructed in this Country.

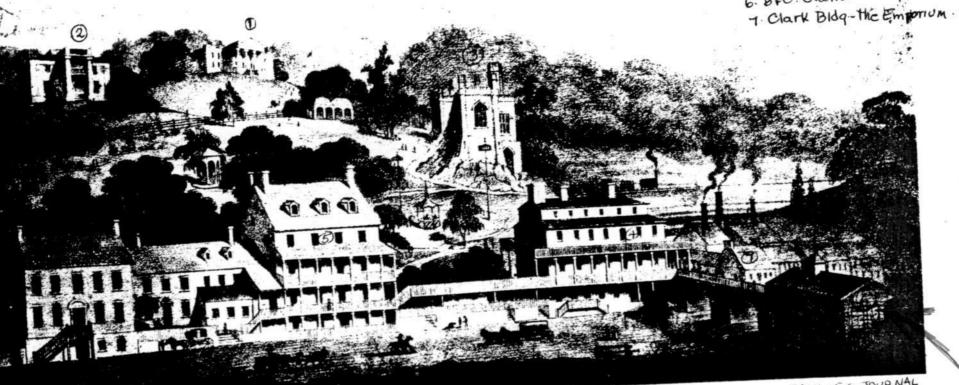
It is believed that the stone station itself was engineered and designed to be part of the Oliver Viaduct which overpasses Frederick Road (the Old National Pike). The cornerstone for the Viaduct was laid on July 4, 1829 and it abuts the station. The exterior of the wall of the stone station ties into a stone retaining wall which parallels the Main Line track in a southerly direction toward Baltimore.

The Railroad had planned to use Ellicott's Mills as a Depot and a portion of the first track laid was laid in Ellicott's Mills having been completed as early as 1828. The station was planned for use as the office of the Superintendent of Construction and it was from this office that a great deal of the construction for the first 13 miles was supervised and after completion this office was used for many years as the Superintendent's Office as the Railroad pressed westward.

Public response to the railroad was tremendously successful and the trip from Baltimore to Ellicott's Mills became a must. Although the railroad had not anticipated passenger service, it suddenly found this to be an instant success and business flourished. During this period the Ellicott's Mills Railroad Station was the scene for arrival and departure of Presidents, political aspirants, foreign dignitaries and just plain people interested in the thrill of a ride on the iron horse.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES			
Heritage Newsletter of Historic	Ellic	ott City Inc. June 19	74 U.S. 1 No. 5
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		LATITUDE AND LONG	TUDE COORDINATES
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1. PATAPSCO Female Institule
2. Mt Ida
3 Angelo Corrage
4. Patapsco Hotel
5. Town Hall-Opera House
6. B+O Station



Lithography of Main Street, dated cir. 1832, shows location of yet to be constructed Railroad Hotel.

FROM. EC. JOURNAL

1. Patapsco Female Institute 2. Mt. Ida

3 Angelo Cottage 4. Patapoco Hotel 5. Town Hall-Opera House

6 Railroad Hotel

.7.8+0. Station

8. ORIG. Parapsco Bank Bldg. 13 Quaker Meeting Hose 9. Court House

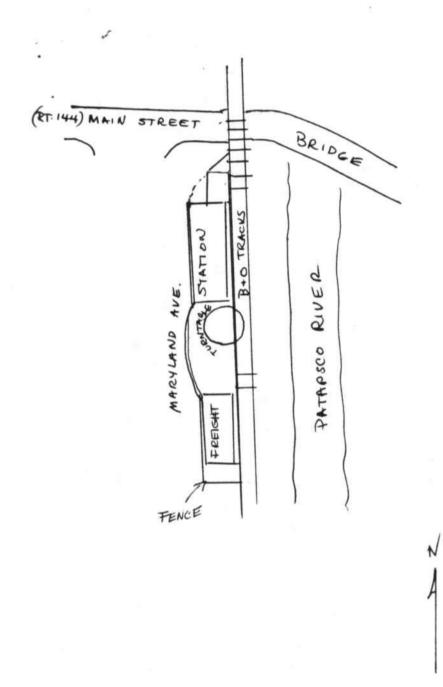
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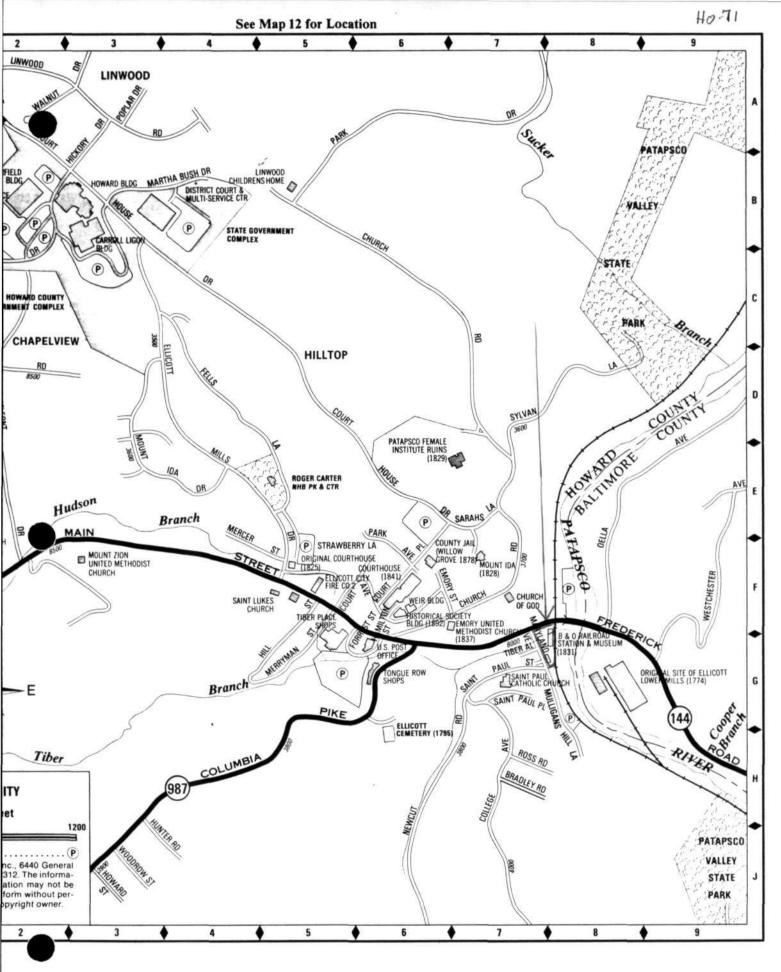
12. St. Pauls Catholic Ch.

FROM E C. JOURNAL

The Railroad Hotel can be located in this etching, dated cir. 1840.



B & O STATION



Linwood Rd A-2 Main St E-2 Martha Bush Dr B-3 Maryland Ave F-7 Mercer St E-4 Merryman St G-5 Millican Hill La G-8

Tiber AI G-7 Walnut Dr A-2 Westchester Ave F-9 Woodrow St J-3

ROUTE

GOVERNMENT FEATURES

County jail F-6 County Police B-1 Courthouse F-6 District Court B-4

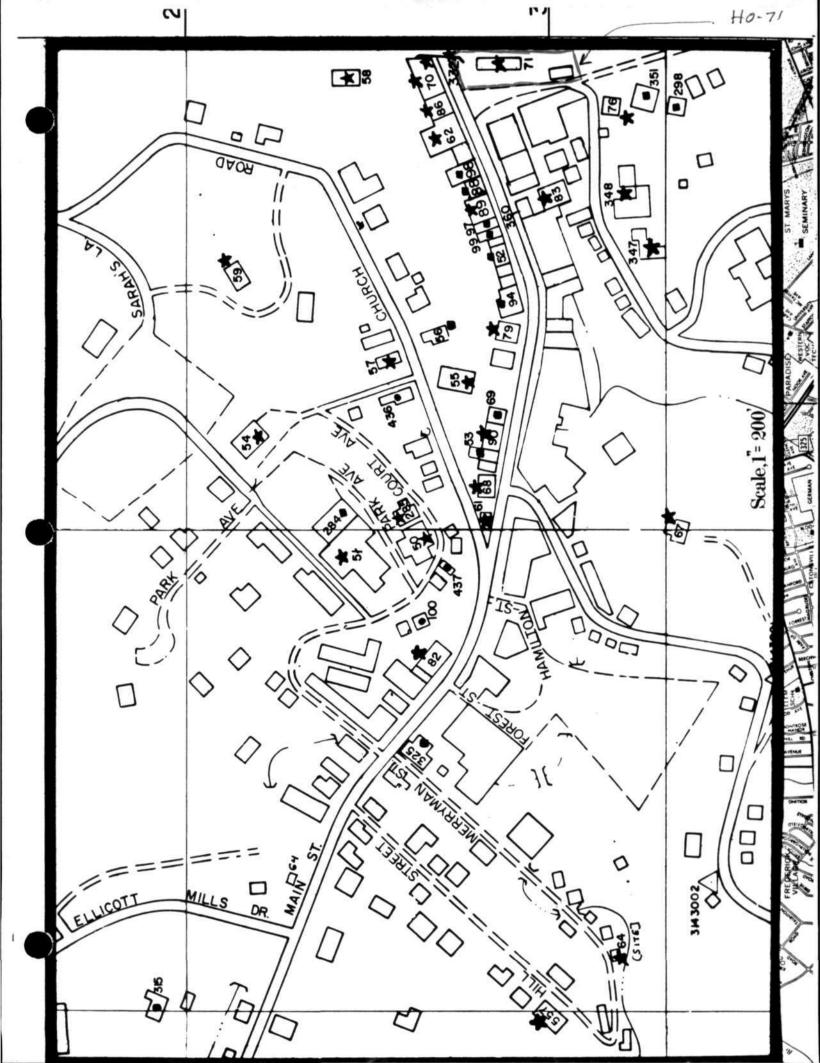
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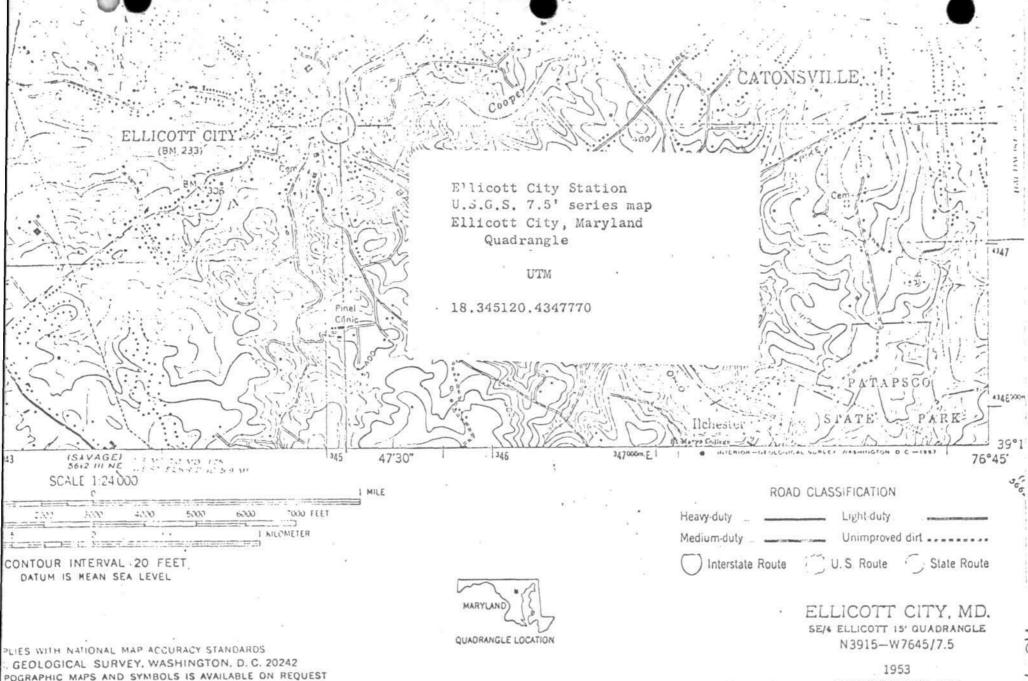
Patapsco Valley Stte Pk A-9, J-9 Roger Carter NBHD Pk E-5

PLACE

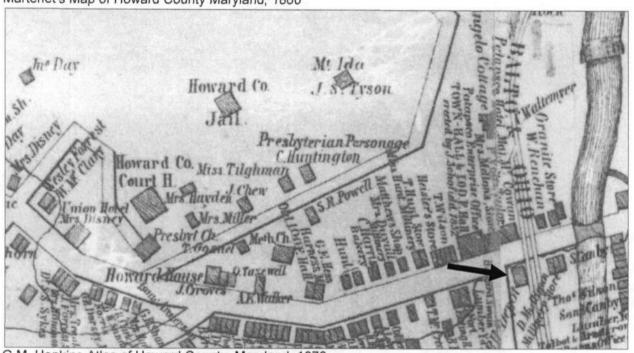
POINTS OF

B & O Station & Museum G-8 Ellicott Cemetery G-6 Original Courthouse F-5 Patapsco Female Inst Ruin E-6





HO-71 Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, and Turntable 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City Martenet's Map of Howard County Maryland, 1860



G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Howard County, Maryland, 1878

FRIENDS
MEETING HOUSE

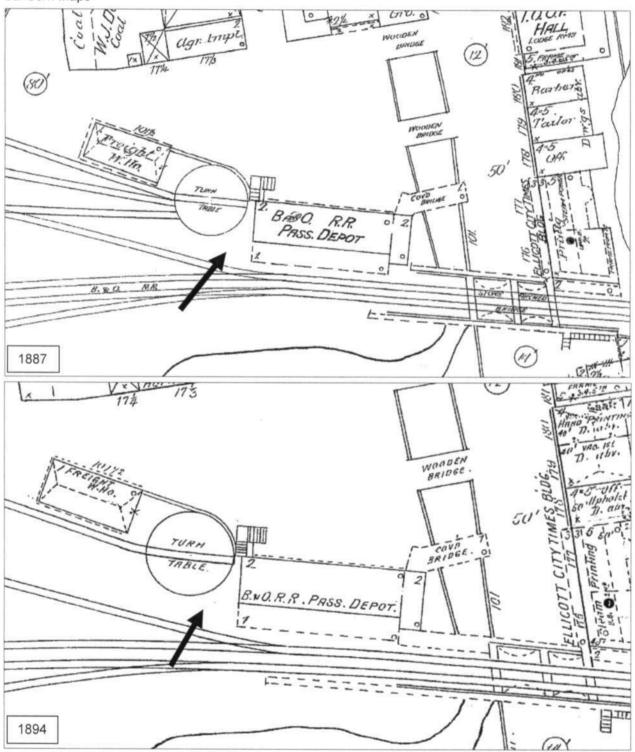
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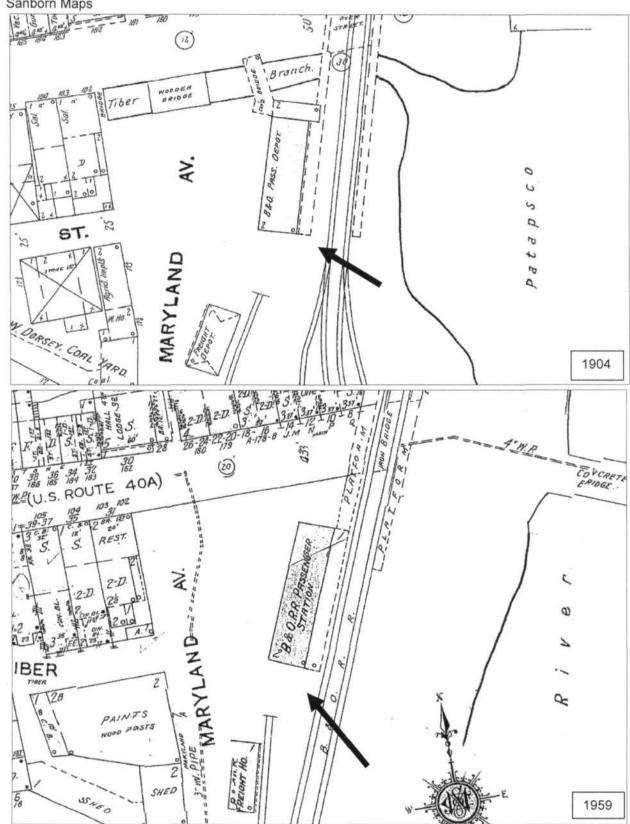
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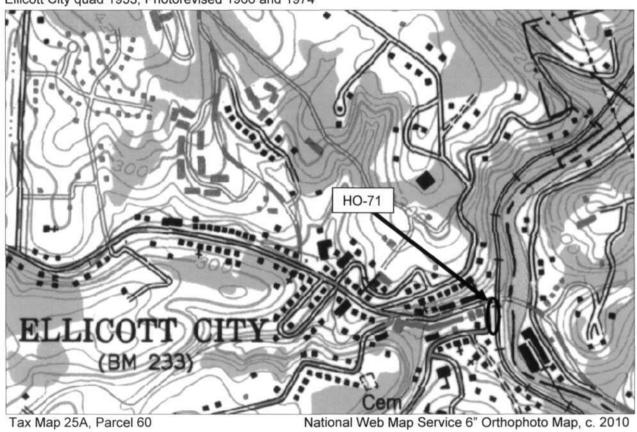
HO-71 Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, and Turntable 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City Sanborn Maps



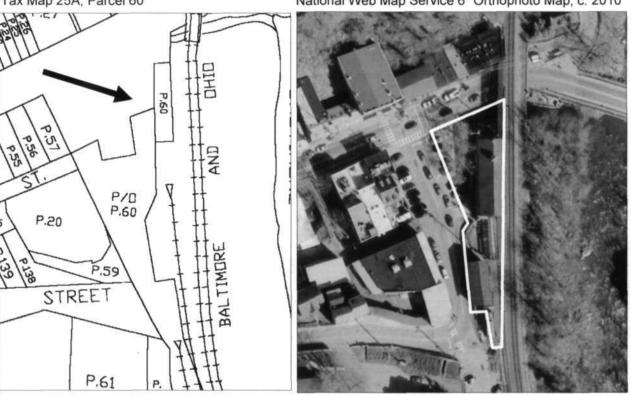
HO-71 Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, and Turntable 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City Sanborn Maps



HO-71 Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, and Turntable 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 25A, Parcel 60



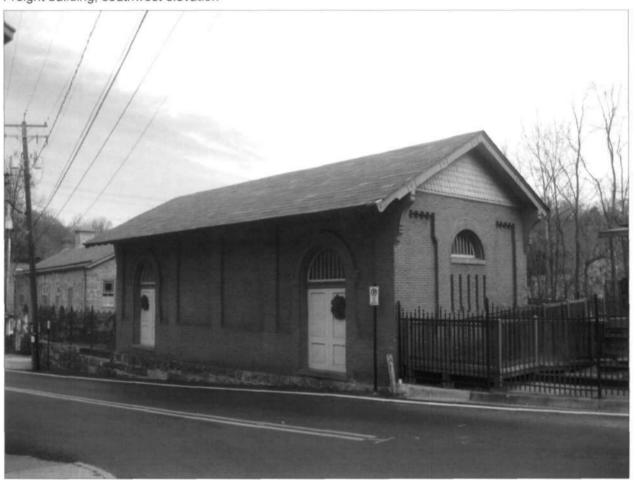
HO-71 Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, and Turntable 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 12/5/2012 Main building, northwest elevation



Main building, southwest elevation



HO-71
Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station, Freight Building, and Turntable 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City
Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 12/5/2012
Freight building, southwest elevation





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3/1975

FOR NPS USE O	DATE
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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BYO STATION E. SIDE J. Hannen

HO-71

7/1475

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HO-71	STATE		
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY		
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	FOR NPS USE ON	VLY	
	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
٦.	NAME	1		
	COMMON: B+O Station			
2.	LOCATION			
	MAIN ST. + MARYLAND AUR CITY OR TOWN: ELLICOTT CITY			
	STATE GODE COUNTY: HOWAR	0	CODE	
3.	PHOTO REFERENCE			
	PHOTO CREDIT: J. HANNON			
	DATE OF PHOTO: Feb 75			
	MHT (Euclosed)			
4.	IDENTIFICATION			
	EAST side of Station - camera facing NE Sho + protective fence installed for restoration. T on left inside fence	wing Scaffoldi urn table are	ing	
1				



FREIGHT STATION B+O- W.SIDE J. Hannen

2/1975

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HO-71	STATE	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY	
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	FOR NPS USE OF	NLY
	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1.	NAME		1
	COMMON: B+ O. Freight Station		
_	AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2.	LOCATION		
	MAIN St. + MARY AND AVE		
	CITY OR TOWN:		
l.	ELLICOTT CITY		
	Md. 21043 CODE COUNTY:	r d	CODE
3.	PHOTO REFERENCE		
	PHOTO CREDIT: J. HANNON		
	DATE OF PHOTO: Feb. 1975		
	NEGATIVE FILED AT: MHT (enclosed)		
4.	IDENTIFICATION		
-	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
	West side (Maryland toe side) of Freight St	extion - B+O	
	Station (EAST Side enclosed by fence-pi	cture not poss	sible)
	Freight Station undergoing restoration		